New division at Berhampur

728. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand has been made by the people of Orissa for setting up a new railway division at Berhampur;

(b) whether in their memorandum, a demand has also been made for setting up of a rail production unit and construction of new railway lines from Gopalpur to Bolangir and upgradation of Berhampur railway station, etc.; and

(c) if so, the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No demand has been received regarding setting up of a rail production unit in Berhampur and construction of new line between Gopalpur and Bolangir as per available records.

Regarding upgradation of Berhampur railway station, the following works have recently been completed at Berhampur railway station:

— Supply of potable water;

— Installation of water purifier at platform no.l (capacity 400 liters per hour);

— Provision of LED based Display units for coaches;

— Electrification of extended portion of platform;

— Air-conditioning of. Booking Office; and

— Provision of platform chairs, furniture including baggage rakes for Very Important Person (VIP) rooms, waiting halls, retiring rooms and dormitories.

The following works are in progress at this station which are targeted for completion by 31st December, 2007:

- Renovation of retiring room, dormitory and waiting hall; . Construction of second foot over bridge;
- Provision of covershed in front of station building;
- Improvement of illumination, fannag and signage facilities;
- Replacement/provision of digital master and slave clock; and
- Provision of guidance display boards for coach position in a single row.

The demand for setting up a Railway Division at Berhampur, when examined in the light of the criteria laid down by Railway Reforms Committee and Advisors' Committee has not been found feasible.